Laira Green. 27 Jan.y 1839.

My dear Son,

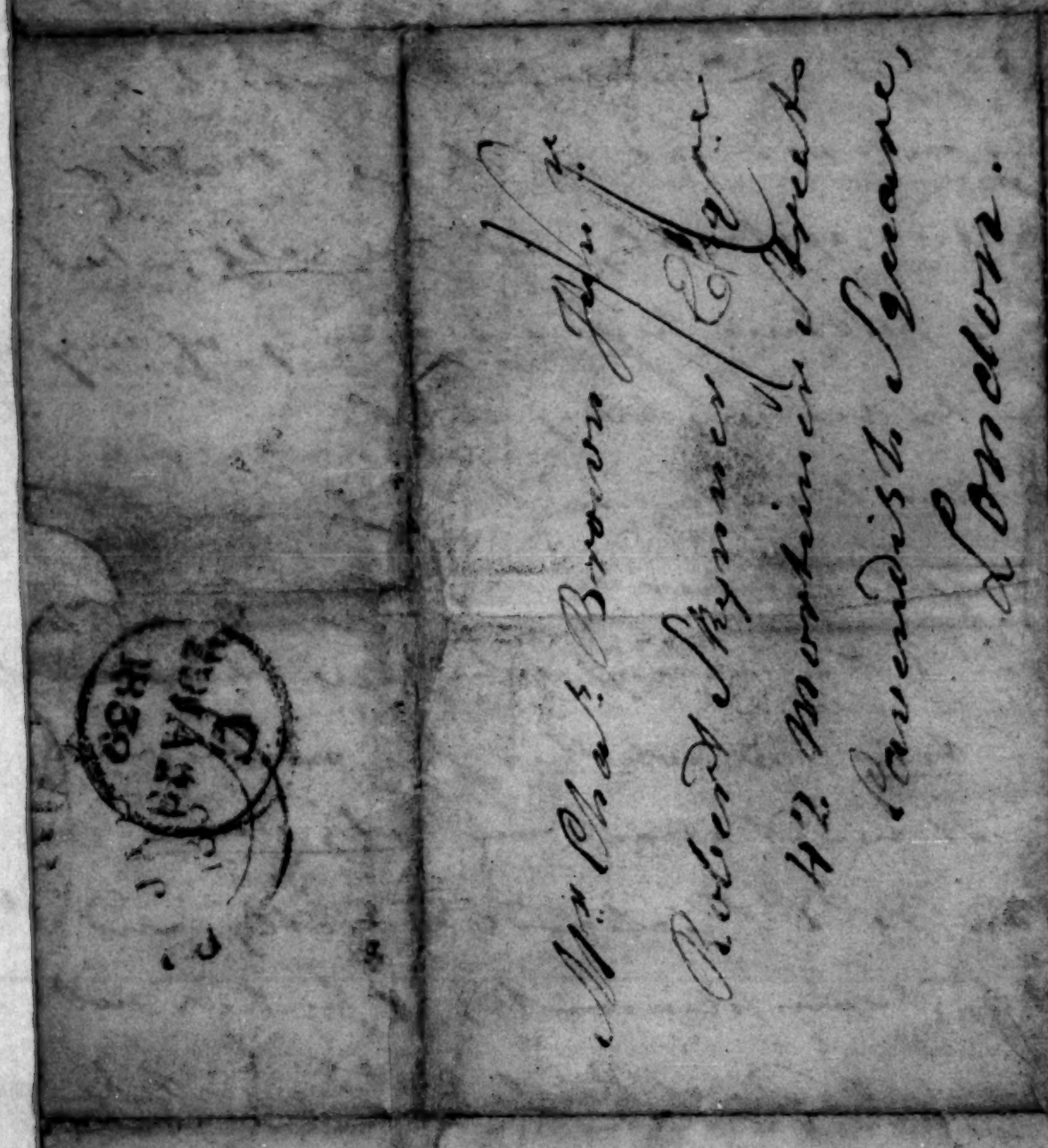
I answer your last letter immediately. You say, — "I want to know if you can put up with the expence of £3 to go to Liverpool, the sum of £3 to be deducted from the income allowed me during the first six months." Does this merely mean, — Can I afford to advance you £3 to be repaid within six months? If so, I can afford the advance; but I cannot afford you more than £60 a year in all; for I keep but £90 for myself, — exclusive of that which I earn by writing. In looking into my accounts I was obliged to ask for my loan to Mr. Browne, and it was quickly repaid. I am sorry you have met with better success hitherto; but it appears to me you are impatient. Would it not be better, instead of adding to your expences by travelling on an uncertainty, to rest quiet awhile? — at any rate so as to save money enough for it before hand? Possibly you may be enabled to fix yourself at Birmingham or Liverpool by letter. If not, wait awhile in London to look more about you, to inquire further, and to be ready to start upon any thing eligible that may offer itself. You are

and always have been too much in a hurry; and in such a humour, take care you do not tie yourself down to something below what you have a right to expect. I am unable to advise you upon the means of getting forward in your chosen profession; but Mr. Skynner, I have no doubt, can give you good advice, and he will surely be kind enough to do it. Recollect that, even with Mr. Reade's advice, you went, the last time, to London, assured you could instantly place yourself where you wished, and recollect also that I doubted it. My doubts are stronger against the Provinces than they were in respect to London. Having a sufficient income, why need you be in a flurried hurry? As for your other question, in case you should leave London, how are you to receive your money? — That must be settled with Mr. Skynner. I cannot spare my Plymouth Journal, and an extra one would cost me, as a favour, 2d a week, which I do not think is worth while paying. I have no high opinion of my Articles, but Mary is delighted, and is always hoping I will continue, she being somewhat afraid I shall be finding it irksome. I don't trouble my head about them till Sunday night when the Examiner appears, and on the Monday my Article is finished;

so the job does not occupy me much. During the remainder of the week I work a little every day at my Novel, which goes on, but not fast. When I get more in the head of it, its speed may increase. I am now 18 years old, and shall soon set off to St Petersburg. As I proceed, characters accumulate, and I foresee my pages will soon be in a bustle. There is not more than one character yet introduced which is not drawn from an individual, — though Walter Hazlewood is himself is certainly not myself, — but I take the liberty of putting him in many of my situations. I begin to see my way more clearly, and am so much in earnest that yesterday I bought 4 quires of ruled paper enough for three volumes, — yet I know not whether it will swell to more than two, or whether the matter will require four. It must work and it's even extent. Pray call on Mr. C Richards directly, and tell him, with my best compliments, if he has not already disposed of my Death of Paul, I request he will put it into your hands. Mind you keep it safely. If not disposed of, I will introduce it into my novel. Let me know the result, that I may manage accordingly. Remember me kindly to the Skynners, the Richards', the Staples', and the Hunts, —

in fact to all possible friends. I am remarkably well, with my brain full of the personages and incidents of my novel. I foresee I shall meet with Mr & Mrs A at St Petersburg, — and that the latter will be horribly mischievous towards poor Walter.

Your affectionate father,
Chas Brown.



I seldom write so long a letter, — I can't afford it. Should you receive the Acts of Paul, — try to enclose it to me in a frank, cutting off the letter part to keep them so as to decrease its weight. Mr Sky never will pay the least use of this on my account. I never attempt to impose a paid letter upon